

Amendments to the claims

1. (Original) A method for conjugating a maytansinoid to an antibody comprising the steps of:

- a. reacting a disulfide-containing linker with the antibody at about pH 5.0 to about pH 8.0 to form a modified antibody;
- b. removing unreacted linker from the modified antibody by tangential flow filtration;
- c. conjugating the modified antibody with the maytansinoid at about pH 6.0 to about pH 6.5 in a solvent comprising dimethylacetamide; and
- d. purifying the modified antibody-maytansinoid conjugate by ion exchange chromatography.

2. (Original) A method for conjugating a maytansinoid to an antibody comprising the steps of:

- a. reacting a disulfide-containing linker with the antibody at about pH 5.0 to about pH 8.0 to form a modified antibody;
- b. removing unreacted linker from the modified antibody by tangential flow filtration;
- c. conjugating the modified antibody with the maytansinoid at about pH 6.0 to about pH 6.5 in a solvent comprising acetonitrile; and
- d. purifying the modified antibody-maytansinoid conjugate by ion exchange chromatography.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ where the maytansinoid is DM1.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ where the linker is SPP.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ where the maytansinoid is DM1 and the linker is SPP.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ further comprising the step of:
 - e. formulating the modified antibody-maytansinoid conjugate.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the ion exchange chromatography is performed on a ceramic hydroxyapatite column.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the ion exchange chromatography is performed on SP-Sepharose.
9. (Currently Amended) An antibody-maytansinoid conjugate prepared by the method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~.
10. (Newly Added) The method of claim 2 where the maytansinoid is DM1.
11. (Newly Added) The method of claim 2 where the linker is SPP.
12. (Newly Added) The method of claim 2 where the maytansinoid is DM1 and the linker is SPP.
13. (Newly Added) The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:
 - e. formulating the modified antibody-maytansinoid conjugate.
14. (Newly Added) The method of claim 2 wherein the ion exchange chromatography is performed on a ceramic hydroxyapatite column.
15. (Newly Added) The method of claim 2 wherein the ion exchange chromatography is performed on SP-Sepharose.
16. (Newly Added) An antibody-maytansinoid conjugate prepared by the method of claim 2.